

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application. Claims 7-10 are withdrawn in a prior paper.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 were rejected, and Claim 4 was objected to because of informalities. Claims 4 and 11 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

In this Amendment, Claim 1 is amended, and Claim 4 is cancelled. No new matter was introduced as a result of this amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 11 are now at issue.

I. Objection to Claims

The objection to Claim 4 is now moot in view of its cancellation, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2003187969 to Iwase et al. ("Iwase") and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,635,989 to Nilsson et al. ("Nilsson")

Claims 4 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base Claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 1 and any intervening claims.

As such, Claim 1 was amended by incorporating all of the substantive limitations of Claim 4. Thus, Claim 1 is patentable over Iwase and Nilsson, as are dependent Claims 3, 5, 6 and 11 for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

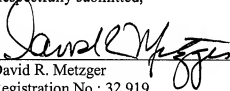
III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 11 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


David R. Metzger
Registration No.: 32,919
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000